

284895

Easterling, Deborah

From: Easterling, Deborah
Sent: Friday, May 24, 2019 4:17 PM
To: sheryl molea
Subject: RE: [External] Letter of Protect Blue Granite

Dear Ms. Molea,

This is to acknowledge receipt of your Letter of Protest/Comments to the Public Service Commission of South Carolina. Your Letter of Protest/Comments will be placed in the Protest File of the Docket listed below and on the Commission's Website at www.psc.sc.gov.

- Docket No. 2018-358-WS - Verified Application of Carolina Water Service, Incorporated for Approval of Annual Rate Adjustment Mechanisms and Petition for an Accounting Order to Defer Expenses

A Protestant is an individual objecting on the ground of private or public interest to the approval of an Application, Petition, Motion or other matters which the Commission may have under consideration. A Protestant may offer sworn testimony but cannot cross-examine witnesses offered by other parties.

According to the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure, filing a Protest does not make you a Party of Record. A Protestant desiring to become an Intervenor (i.e., a Party of Record) in a proceeding before the Commission may file a Petition for Intervention within the time prescribed by the Commission.

You can follow this Docket and other daily filings made at the Commission by subscribing to the Commission's Email Subscriptions at this link: <https://dms.psc.sc.gov/Web/Email>; or you can follow the individual Docket at the link listed below:

Docket No. 2018-358-WS - Verified Application of Carolina Water Service, Incorporated for Approval of Annual Rate Adjustment Mechanisms and Petition for an Accounting Order to Defer Expenses -
<https://dms.psc.sc.gov/Web/Dockets/Detail/116911>

If we may be of further assistance to you, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

Deborah Easterling
 Executive Assistant
 Public Service Commission of South Carolina
 803-896-5133
 Sign up for Meeting Agenda Alerts: Text PSCAGENDAS to 39492

From: sheryl molea
Sent: Friday, May 24, 2019 11:10 AM
To: PSC_Contact <Contact@psc.sc.gov>
Subject: [External] Letter of Protect Blue Granite

Two Attachments

101 Executive Center Dr., Suite 100
Columbia, SC 29210



Fax: 803-896-5199

www.psc.sc.gov

Save as PDF file and Email to
contact@psc.sc.gov

* Required Fields

Date: *

Letter of Protest
in Docket 2018-358- WS

Protestant Information:

Name * Sheryl Molea

Mailing Address *

City* Lake Wylie

State* SC

Zip *29710

Phone *

E-mail

1. What is your connection or interest in this case? * For example, are you a customer of the Company that is the subject of this pending proceeding? (This section must be completed. Attach additional information if necessary.)

Customer.

2. Please give a concise statement of your protest. * (This section must be completed. Attach additional information if necessary.)

Please see attached.

3. Do you wish to make an appearance at a hearing in this proceeding , if scheduled, and offer sworn testimony? *

I work Full Time so it may be difficult

RECEIVED
MAY 24 2019
PSC SC
MAIL / DMS

Good Afternoon,

In November 2017, moved to a new community in Lake Wylie, SC. 29710. Many residents in my part of the neighborhood phase seem to be empty nesters (retirement age). Therefore, many are on a set income. My guess is that they probably own their homes outright. There are others that may be new families who have many expenses of providing the necessities for their children.

Why am I telling you? I have lived in Massachusetts and North Carolina. I have never experienced the water bills that I am receiving from Blue Granite, previously Utilities, Inc. When I first arrived, I felt the water was outrageous. Then after 6 months or so, utilities had a rate increase, it was effective June 2018. They then changed ownership or names, to BlueGranite and they are now proposing another rate hike, one year later.

They currently charge the \$80 fixed every month before you even use one once of water.¹

\$14.38 – I was told just for the connect

\$65.08 - I was told water testing and maintenance of the infrastructure

Variable, customer can control 7.55 /1,000 gallons.

This is a 30% increase (\$240-\$330 annually) from 2017 to 2019. Fortunately I am not on a set income and am still young enough to work. I can assure you I do not receive a 30% increase in my salary annually or every 2 year. My guess is that my neighbors do not either. This was going to be my forever home. But now, I am planning on going someplace that would make more economical sense. Yes expenses go up. Yes, I am paying more for vehicle insurance and vehicle tax but that is my choice. Yes, I am paying a high tax on schools that I will never use, but, it will keep my home valuable, but is also my choice. We all need water, and I think the price increase is a form of gouging. As one of my neighbors mentioned it is highway robbery.

We recently found out that nearby neighborhoods were paying half of what our neighborhood and about 10,000 others are paying. My previous homes in New England (by the water) and North Carolina were both on average \$40 a month.

When I reached out to my councilor, she told me I was late in the game and my perception was that she was defending Blue Granite. She also mentioned this is at a state level which is why I am writing to you.

I am asking you to either veto the proposed increases, or place something in order that they will not be allowed to make any additional increases for (X) years, and then when they do they cannot increase more than (X%) YOY. We all expect price increases but the price increases are unethical.

Please help us. We are being taken advantage of

Thank you, Sincerely

Sheryl R. Molea

¹ See Page two for factual analysis

	2017	Jun-18	Proposed 2019	% change 17 vs. 18	% change 17 vs. 19
Fixed					
Distribution	14.64	14.38	14.38	-1.8%	-1.8%
Collection/treatment	52.93	65.77	72.8	24.3%	37.5%
	\$67.57	\$80.15	\$87.18	18.6%	29.0%
Variable (per 1k gal)	6.67	7.55	9.18	13.2%	37.6%
Cost at 3,200 gallons	\$21.34	\$24.16	\$29.38	13.2%	37.6%
Cost at 5,000 gallons	\$33.35	\$37.75	\$45.90	13.2%	37.6%
Monthly bill					
3,200 gallons	\$88.91	\$104.31	\$116.56	17.3%	31.1%
5,000 gallons	\$100.92	\$117.90	\$133.08	16.8%	31.9%

The 3,200 gallons is based on my records for 2 people. Therefore, I assumed 5,000 gallons for a family of 4, which may be conservative.